

5 We claim:

1. A device for positioning separately supplied elongate meat products, comprising:

two driven endless aligning conveyors running with the transport paths substantially parallel to each other, which transport paths together form a support for the meat products for transporting such that, at the position where the transport paths are mutually adjacent, they are in a lower position than when at a greater mutual distance.

15 2. A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the distance between the aligning conveyors is smaller than the smallest diameter perpendicularly of the longitudinal axis through the elongate meat products.

20 3. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the aligning conveyors are constructed from a plurality of substantially form-retaining segments which are fixed to an endless support member.

25 4. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device also comprises a discharge conveyor located at least partially under the transport paths of the aligning conveyors.

30 5. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the device also comprises a feed member for elongate meat products which is located partially above the transport paths of the aligning conveyors.

5 6. The device as claimed in claim 5, characterized in
that the feed member for elongate meat products is formed by
a crimper wheel.

 7. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
that the aligning conveyors are driven such that they are
10 displaceable with a difference in speed.

 8. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
that the transport paths of the aligning conveyors have a
path section running substantially parallel to each other
15 which transposes into a path section where the distance
between the transport paths increases in the direction of
transport.

 9. A method for positioning separately supplied
20 elongate meat products by the successive steps of:
a) collecting successively supplied elongate meat products
from a supply position by means of two aligning
conveyors running with the transport paths
substantially parallel to each other,
25 b) displacing the aligning conveyors with the meat
products supported thereby in the direction of
transport, and
c) unloading the positioned elongate meat products from
the aligning conveyors through an opening between the
30 transport paths of the aligning conveyors, which
opening increases in the direction of transport.

5 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in
that during processing step a) the 15 transport paths of the
aligning conveyors, owing to the form thereof, guide the
meat products to a preferred orientation in axial direction
during collection of the meat products.

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 11. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in
that during processing step b) the transport paths of the
aligning conveyors, guide the meat products to a preferred
orientation in axial direction during displacing of the meat
15 products.

 12. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in
that the aligning conveyors are displaced at different
speeds during processing step b).

20 13. The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in
that the difference in speed with which the aligning
conveyors are displaced amounts to less than 10% of the
speed of the fastest-moving aligning conveyor.

 14. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in
25 that the aligning conveyors unload the meat products during
processing step c) in that they drop downward between the
two aligning conveyors.